A proposal was also received from Govt of Rajasthan for setting up of Re-search and Development Centre at Jaipur for testing of textile printed with azo dyes. In this connection it may be mentioned that testing facilities are being provided at Jaipur under the programme of expansion/upgradation of laboratory network in the country at easy reach to the textile industry.

Tax Rates

4377 SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Tariff Rates to be at Global Level by 2003' Chidambram' published in 'Economic Times" dated November 25, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the rate of taxation in the country is much higher than that in the other countries of the world;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and the estimated average rate of taxation in India and other countries of the world separately;

(d) whether the Government have fixed the year 2003 as time limit for bringing the said Rate of Taxation at Global level;

(e) if so, whether the high taxation rate would continue affecting the foreign trade in the country; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is generally that India's average import tariff is higher than that in many other countries including some developing countries.

(d) to (f). No precise terminal year has been fixed. However, it is the policy of the Government to gradually bring down the import tariffs. In doing so, Government will take into account all relevant factors, including the desired level of protection to domestic industry, competitiveness of India's export products which use imported raw materials and components, and tariff bindings agreed to.

[Translation]

Latest Technique in SSI

4378 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale industries are facing difficulties due to lack of provision of latest techniques in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing latest technique to SSI in time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Small Scale Sector is experiencing some difficulties in sourcing latest technology. To facilitate this Government is providing technology information and extension services to the small scale units through a network of various institutions at different places in the country Under the Department of SSI and ARI, Small Industries Development Organisation and National Small Industries Corporation are rendering services to the SSI units through their field offices. Tool Rooms at Ludhiana, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar, Indore, Aurangabad, Jamshedpur and Hand Tool Institutions at Jullandhar and Nagaur and providing technical support services to the SSI units. Specialised institutions namely Process-cum-Product Development Centre (PPDC) Meerut for sports goods and PPDC, Agra for foundary, CDGI for glass industry at Ferozabad, FFDC for essential oils at Kannauj, IDEMI, for instrumentation at Bombay and ESTC for electronics at Ramnagar, CFTIs for leather and footwear at Madras and Agra are providing specific technical services to the SSI units. 5 Prototype Development and Training Centres by NSIC located at Delhi, Calcutta, Rajkot, Madras and Hyderabad are providing technical training, common facilities, laboratory testing facilities and development of proper technologies to the SSI units.

In addition to above, the Department of SSI and ARI operates a scheme of International Cooperation Programme wherein small enterprises are taken to different countries to acquaint them with latest technique available in their field of production. Also NSIC organises industrial exhibitions every year wherein the SSI units get an opportunity to meet the foreign companies and interact with them for the latest technologies/techniques.

[English]

Function of Export Inspection Council of India

4379. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main functions of the Export Inspection Council of India;

(b) whether Export (Quality Control of Inspection) Act, 1963 prescribed any duration for holding the meeting of the members of Export Inspection council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;